

GREETINGS FROM COOLIDGE SCHOOL

October 22, 2013

www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/coolidge

Dear Families,

Two incidents are weighing heavy on my mind this week. The first concerns a student's experience on the bus. The second? Parent comments about one of our younger children on Facebook. At first glance these issues seem unrelated; the students on the bus are not connected to the people posting. On the other hand, we all share one school community. Having watched the hub of the network hum for some time now, I am struck by how closely woven our web has become.

Initially of course I noticed the negative aspects of these incidents. It saddens me when we fail to treat others as we'd like to be treated, and in both cases there are hard feelings to fix. More than that, those who merely witnessed what happened were bothered too. With time and a good night's sleep I recognized that the more powerful part of these issues was actually the positive. In both cases, bystanders came forward, first to signal that there was a problem and then to offer their support.

On the student side of things, I'll be sure to celebrate our student bystanders, and to remind our young learners about the importance of extending our best selves to those in need. In this I was helped greatly by the book Each Kindness by Jacqueline Woodson. The author describes a teacher dropping a pebble into a big bowl and telling her class, 'This is what kindness does...each little thing we do goes out, like a ripple, into the world.' It helps the students in that teacher's class to realize the importance of acting with intention. It's my hope it will help all our children to think harder about the ripples they start, at school and out in the wider world.

As I write today, I'd like to encourage all us adults to do the same. Consider the signals you send, not just with your words but also with your actions. Think hard about the importance of modeling for our children the value of kindness~ and please aim to do your best to strengthen our community bonds with positivity.

Sincerely,

Amy

Amy Clouter
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES:

October 25

School Store

Family Fun walk, 4:30-6 pm

November 1-8	Scholastic Bookfair, in the Media Center
November 4	Rotary Readers visit 2 nd grade
November 5	Parent Conference Day~ No school for students
	Election Day 7 am-8 pm
November 6	<i>Prince Caspian (play) for Grades 1-4</i>
November 11	Veteran's Day (no school)
November 13	Wingmasters visits 2nd grade
	Grade 3 visits Plimoth Plantation
November 15	School Store
	PTO Shopping Spectacular 6 pm
November 19	Author Melissa Stewart visits Grades 3 & 4
	PTO Meeting, 7 pm
November 21	Grade 4 concert, 6:30 pm, Coolidge Cafeteria
November 27, 28, 29	No school; Thanksgiving break

FYI

1. The staff is pleased to announce that the 7th annual Family Fun Walk will be held on Friday, October 25th from 4:30 to 6. Please join us for some after school fun. Our fourth graders will raise funds for St. Anne's and all are invited to come in costume.
2. We have 11 registrations for BOKS- we need 7 more in order to run the program. Did you know that students in ESC before school can join for free? Please consider this exciting fitness opportunity. Sign up forms can be found on the Coolidge web site.
3. YES, childcare will be available on Parent Conference Day from 7 am to 3:30. Parents who are interested can drop children in Grades pre K- Grade 4 off in the Cafeteria for the duration of their conference time- about 30 minutes/student.
4. We continue to prepare for unexpected events with regular drills. We practiced a lockdown at Coolidge last week. I am pleased to announce that most children did an outstanding job of remaining silent throughout. In addition, we're grateful to Mr. Vincequere of the Shrewsbury Fire Department for helping us to remember fire safety.

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE:

Physical Exams

1. Vision and Hearing begins this week. Please remember to send your child to school with glasses if s/he wears them.



2. If your child is new to Shrewsbury or to Coolidge School we require a Physical Exam done within 12 months of entry or within 30 days after entry. We ask parents then to provide a copy of the Physical Exam every 3 or 4 years.
All 4th grade parents please make appointments for a new Physical Exam for your child if one has not been provided last year. They will need it before moving on to Sherwood

Middle School. If you have any questions please call the Nurses office at 508-841-8887. Physicals can be faxed to the office -508-841-8883.

If you are without insurance, St. Ann's Free Medical Clinic will perform a Physical Exam at no charge. They will also assist in applying to MA. Health to obtain medical coverage, Their hours are every Tuesday 6-8PM at the Father Smith Center behind St. Ann's Church on Rt. 9 in Shrewsbury.

Don't forget to get schedule your child's flu shot. Be a good role model and get a flu shot this year! More on the flu can be seen at www.mass.gov/flu. Please Check out The Flu: A Guide for Parents.

Katie Zimmermann RN, BSN, NCSN